Welfare schemes for widows

2029. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement any welfare scheme by involving State Governments for helpless poor widows so that, they can survive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has launched a scheme called Swadhar in 2001-2002 which seeks to Rehabilitate the women in difficult circumstances like widows, destitute and deserted women, women ex-prisoners, victims of several abuse and crimes, including those trafficked and rescued from brothers, migrant or refugee women who have been rendered homeless due to natural calamities like flood, cyclone, mentally challenged women, women victims of terrorist violence etc. The components covered include shelter, food, counseling, medical and legal support, training for the economic rehabilitation of women and helpline facilities. The implementing agencies can be Social Welfare/ Women and Child Welfare Department of State Government, Women's Development Corporations, Urban Local Bodies, reputed Public/Private Trust in Voluntary Organizations who are willing to take up the responsiblity of rehabilitating such cases duly recommended by the State Governments are placed before the Project Sanctioning Committee which decides the cases on meetings.

(c) Does not arise.

Promotion of education among Scheduled Caste girls

2030. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey for promotion of education among the Scheduled Caste girls during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the literacy rates of SC girls in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by Government to improve the literacy rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Literacy rates of SC girls in Andhra Pradesh is 43.35 (Census 2001).

(d) The major schemes/measures are opening of more universities colleges, engineering colleges, expanding Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in all districts, relaxing the norms for opening primary/middle schools, providing freeships/scholarships/fellowships, uniforms, stationery, school bags, reservation of seats in admission in educational institutions, relaxation in cut of marks in admissions/appointments, priority to SC concentration areas for District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Mahila Samakhya (MS), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), opening of residential schools, educational complexes in Low Literacy Pockets and Ashram Schools and opening of Hostels for SC students. Other measures include opening of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, introduction of the scheme of National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) as a component of SSA. As a result of the concerted efforts of the Central and State Governments, the literacy percentage of Scheduled Castes increased from 10.27% in 1961 to 54.69% in 2001.

Expansion of FM Radio

2031. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to expand FM radio to achieve about 50 per cent of the population coverage by 2006-07;

(b) the persent coverage of FM radio;

(c) the areas in the country which are not covered by AIR; and

(d) the steps being taken to cover entire population by AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. AIR has proposed to increase FM coverage to about 50% by population, during the Tenth five year plan.

(b) The present FM coverage is about 33% by population.

(c) and (d) Whole of the country is covered through short wave signals. 12 Satellite Radio Channels on DTH platform are available throughout the country (except A&N Islands). The primary grade signal is available to 91.42% by area and 99.13% by population. After completion of Tenth Plan schemes, it would increase to 92.92% by area and 99.49% by population.